

The Magazine for Halloweeners and Inbetweeners

Dragazine

No.5 \$4.95

Karen Dior

High On Heels

Shapely Switch-Hitter
Tells **Naked** Truth About
Loni Anderson

Tina Turner

Boy George

Madonna

& How To Hide A Penis

Plus...

New York's Joe E. Jeffreys

CornerRadius SuperModel RuPaul!

Miss X & Phillip R. Ford

LA's Dragstrip 66

Ernie Glam on Style Summit

The Crying Game

The Vaginally Challenged Issue

Dragazine Goes To The Movies!

LOVE BETWEEN THE
SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS

"The Crying Game"

Written and Directed by Neil Jordan

Reviewed by Lois Commondenominator

If you haven't seen the movie, don't read beyond this point! Now that I've gotten that out of the way, beautiful and male newcomer Jaye Davidson plays Dil, a transvestite who passes in public as a real woman. Sometimes she is mistaken private as a real woman. She is the object of desire for men of a rainbow of sexual orientations in this main stream Golden-Globe-winning foreign film. Dil's singing talent is equal to her talent for being both beautiful and seductive (what a nice surprise to find Boy George on the sound track). I am sure that less astute heterosexuals in some audiences have audibly gasped and gagged when it is revealed that she is a he, which will make this film a hard sell outside most major markets. I believe it is for that reason that Miramax has marketed this film based not on transvestism, but on the image of the incomparable Miranda Richardson, who plays very effectively the evil Jude, Dil's arch rival. Jude is a femme fatale IRA terrorist who, by all appearances could be a fashionable lady of leisure, but who in reality is a politically driven kidnapper and assassin. Whether Jude is a patriot or terrorist depends on which side will write the history books, but I suspect that Writer/Director Neil Jordan, who is best known for his third film "Mona Lisa", worked many themes through this film. I was able to see that over and above having relationships flourish during wartime, not least was judging books by their covers. Fergus, played by Stephen Rea, was a repentant kidnapper who could hide his past about as well as Dil could hide her gender - eventually the truth must come out about both, and the truth comes out about many other things along the way. Fergus has so much in common with his political, ethnic and religious factional rivals that he easily blends into society

while on the lamb, which is what Dil does by passing as a woman to the catcalls of heterosexual (?) males at a construction site. What is also portrayed here is not straight, bi or gay love, but the love of heterosexual males for gay transvestites, one of society's worst kept secrets!!! Also, what is not stereotypical was that the real female Jude is the one who entices Jody, played by Forest Whitaker, to his ultimate doom, while it is Dil, the transvestite heroine, who triumphs over evil. The usual stereotypical role of the transvestite in film is followed here otherwise in that she loses her lover, she gets mistreated by men, she seemingly tricks a straight man into sex only to have him throw up once finding out, and finally her greatest love is returned, but not requited. Through a cruel twist of fate, Dil falls in love with the captor of her fallen soldier, which sounds as if it shouldn't happen but somehow makes sense by film's end. I recommend "The Crying Game" for the acting, writing, direction and inclusion of a heroic transvestite character, something we need more of to counteract our portrayal in that horrid Oscar winner "Silence of the Lambs"! LCV



Crazy Mixed Up World...

It's only Rock 'N Roll and we like it!

"I'm just a sweet transvestite, from Transsexual, Transylvania..."

Sweet Transvestite, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Richard O'Brien ©1975

"You got your mother in a whirl - she's not sure if you're a boy or a girl..."

Rebel Rebel, Diamond Dogs, David Bowie ©1974

"She's so swishy in her satin and tat, in her frock-coat and bipperty-bopperty hat, Oh God, I could do better than that..."

Queen Bitch, Hunky Dory, David Bowie ©1971

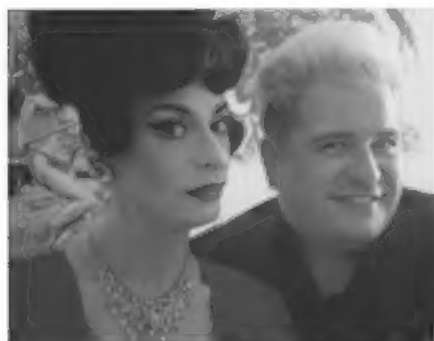
"Shaved her legs along the way, changed her name and then he was a she..."

Walk On The Wild Side, Transformer, Lou Reed ©1972

"I can't understand why she walks like a woman and talks like a man..."

Lola, Kinks' Arthur, Ray and Dave Davies ©1970

If you're a drag enthusiast or just a tourist (and who isn't one or the other?), Dragazine invites you to dish with us! For those of you who are into 'recreational transvestism', to others who are on the edge of the Gender Bell Curve, Dragazine is for you! It's a Whole 'Nother World!



Commondenominator in for a chat about Doris Fish, "Vegas in Space" and their current play, "Dolls" (ne "Valley of the...") Page 28



Publisher Lois Commondenominator (pictured here out of "geish") finds that Karen Dior has more than one thing to say. Page 10



New York's Joe E. Jeffreys burns up message units interviewing SuperModel RuPaul Charles poolside. Page 24

Dragazine

No. 5

Dedicated To Benny Hill

PUBLISHER • EDITRIX • HEAD DRAG QUEEN

Lois Commondenominator

LAYOUT

Art D. Rector

RECEPTIONIST • OFFICE PERSON • TYPESETTER

Sybil Disobedience

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About Our Divoon Front Cover...

Sinsational Whipped Cream and Karen Dior are caputered by Photographer Paul Pellettieri for the cover of "Transfigured" Courtesy Winners Media Group

About Our Gitchy Back Cover...

Miss X is the proverbial showbiz survivor, Helen Lawson, in Phillip R. Ford's "Dolls"

The Name Game

The Name Game is brought to you by Achilles Heels for Men, "They're my only weakness!", and by 5 O'Clock Shadows and 40 Lashes Mascara, now in these gitchy shades: Missing Link Pink, Pink-icide, On-The-Brink Pink, Take-A-Drink Pink, Red T'Go, Red Scare, Jungle Red (of course!), Henna Godda Davida, Gang Grape, Mauvelous, Bruised Eggplant, Burnt Offering, Brownstastic, Beigeless, Yellow Snow, You Blue It, Assfault Jungle, Black of Taste and Black of Interest! Send your Name Game names to Dragazine, P.O. Box 691664, West Hollywood, CA 90069, and give til it hurts! Compiled by Lois Commondenominator and Drag Queens like you!

Alma Children
Ananda Hugankiss
Angela Deth
Ann Athema
Ann Chelada
Ava Kahdoe
Anna Conda
Belle Bottom
Belle Curve
Beth Wethtern
Beverly Hills
Casey Diaz
Charity Case
Christina Darling

Dawn Fordishes
Dee Structive
Faith Heeler
Georgia O'Keefemerit
Hedda Lettuce
Ivy Needle
Jean Ann Tonic
Karen Feeding
Mary Wanasmoker
Mercy Killer
Mia Culpa
Mildred Pierced
Nan O'Second
Pam O'Rama

Pearl Onion
Pearl Necklace
Peg Legg
Princess Phone
Queen Sized
Sue Wee
Tiffany Lampshade
Trampolina
Valencia Orange
Vi O'Lashun
Wendy Fatladysings

by Bea Flat

Newsflash! Now, I'm not one to spread false rumors, but according to *The Los Angeles Times* of February 6th, 1993, author **Anthony Summers** had a new accounting of the non-performance of former **Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover** to prosecute the Mafia successfully during his tenure. In his book, *"Official and Confidential, The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover"*, not only did top crime figures have compromising photos of **Ms. Hoover** doing the wild thing with his longtime male aide **Clyde Tolson**, but reliable reports were ready to be circulated that 'Jedgar' attended more than one private sex party where he would, in one report, wear a red dress and black boa ensemble while being read a passage of the **Bible** by boys in leather while they performed sex with (or on) him. Well! I hope none of this is true - for the sake of the good name of Drag, in my opinion! And now, back to your regularly scheduled program. Since our last issue featuring the fabulous **Frank Marino**, it sure has been busy in *The World of Drag*! New at your video store from *The Criterion Laser Disc Collection* are two drag gems to inspire you those other 364 days between Halloweens. Look no further for a great drag double bill by inserting *"Some Like It Hot"* and *"La Cage Aux Folles"* in your players. *"Some Like It Hot"* is the classic 1959 **Billy Wilder** comedy featuring **Tony Curtis** and **Jack Lemmon** *en femme* (in drag!). Oh, yeah, **Marilyn Monroe** is at her comedic best too. Any drag-o-phile worth their salt won't miss **Michel Serrault's** portrayal of the hyper **Zaza** in 1979's *"La Cage Aux*

Folles". Speaking of drag recommendations, no one wrote to me like I asked you all in Issue No. 3 to tell me if you liked **Rodney Dangerfield** doing drag in *"Lady Bugs"*, but we get a new assignment this issue, and your reports better be on my desk Monday morning

to get to this column, then you missed my recommendation of **Neil Jordan's** *"The Crying Game"*, and if you're just hearing about it for the first time from me, then you better get a new set of friends! Did anyone see the film *"Danzon"*? It features a bubbly female impersonator who recommends cruising the docks in a red dress and hoop earrings to find a boyfriend! I agree! Not to give any negative reviews, but one of my readers demanded that I rent 1987's *"Mascara"*, starring **Charlotte Rampling** and **Michael Sarazin**. Sorry reader, I did and I wouldn't suggest it to you if you were my worst enemy! It was just another in a series of sick stories about a drag-obsessed **Queen of Police**, er, **Chief of Police**, who's a horn-dog for his sister whom he commits suicide over, but not before he kills her lover and the local drag chanteuses. Anyway, perhaps the public would rather see Drag Queens play themselves on the silver screen, at least that's what **Jonathan Demme** seems to think. He's cast the ever delovely **Lypsinka** in a new flick called *"Philadelphia"* for TriStar. Madonna must agree about casting, for she included 1992's **Adult Video News Director of the Year Chi Chi La Rue** and diva/authoress **Holly Woodlawn** in her latest video, *"Deeper and Deeper"*. Speaking of **Mad'na**, rumor has it that she's purchased the rights to **Holly Woodlawn's** *"A Low Life In High Heels"*, and plans to play **Candy Darling** herself! We'll see! Talking about music videos,



THE BALLY SISTERS ARE COOLY-COOLY HOT!

The sensational "Beunice" and "Shirlee" "Bally" are a pair of "identical" "twin" "sisters" who'll "sing" and dance their way right into your thorax! I recently witnessed their current incarnation while they were on one of the appendages of their "Around the World Tour". They materialized at the pink-and-gray Gardenia Lounge, which wasn't too too far east for this reporter, located just past La Brea Avenue on Santa Monica Boulevard, one crisp fall's eve. I later asked the two danseuses which world they were referring to in the title of their tour, to which Beunice said, "Our world, of course", and to which I replied, "Oh, that world". They burst out from the hallway adjacent to the bathrooms and into the main thronging lounge area clad in matching red satin skirts and yards of tulle, modest heels and 90% identical bouffants. "The bigger the pearl, the better the girl", Shirlee said as she rose to the occasion upon my mention of their mirrored accessorizations. I immediately downed my obligatory two-drink-minimum Cranberry Spritzers and reordered one more to show my support, at the same time inadvertently giving my bladder a run for its money during the show. Since I didn't pay any cover because I was on the guest list for being one of the Press, I fantasized foolhardily about how the twins might have a cut of the well if not the door. Fresh from bitter controversy, their appearance answered any questions I had about the use of lipsyncing in their show. For a Fiddler on the Roof medley that will have you gagging with delight, dredge up some nostalgia The Bally Sisters way! It's "pure goddess entertainment!"

Misters! At press time, **Robin Williams** has been cast to play the lead in something called *"Madame Doubtfire"*, a story about a drag nanny! Speaking of **Robin Williams**, did anyone count how often the **Genie** did drag in *"Aladdin"*? If you skimmed the rest of *Dragazine* just

have you caught grunge-meisters **Nirvana** doing the drag-thing in their 60's-looking anything-but-retro sounding tome *"In Bloom"*? Speaking of the grunge look, I call it thrift store, you call it potato, but **Ralph Lauren** groupies need to learn how to whisper better!

Fashion show eavesdroppers recently overheard his entourage decree that the whole drag thing is over, according to a clipping we can thank T.M. in New York for. Somebody better tell Todd Oldham, who recently persuaded DQ Vaginal Creme Davis down his runway, although even Todd's been spotted rum-maging for cool plaids. Back to the Empty T.V. watch, oh, excuse me, MTV! Of course, it isn't the first time they've demonstrated drag for the kiddies, but it's never surpassed its how-to pinnacle with Jane's Addiction's "Been Caught Stealing". Does anyone go out to legitimate theater? In L.A. they should, for if they did, they might have caught "Children of the Night", a short-run jazzy ensemble piece with singing and dancing. Not to be missed was the contribution made by the striking Larry (Bobcat) Jeffries, who sang "Miss IT" while he vamped in a black slip, wig and high heels. The group also featured vocalist Sarah Baldwin, and opened for the dazzling RuPaul at her one-night Arena appearance, which is where I finally hooked up with the effervescent Ruby Tuesday! Thank you World of Wonder for putting me on that guest list! Back to looking East, T.M. also reported a spate of Off-Broadway drag offerings, including "Born to Rumba", "Ruthless!", "P.S. Bette Davis" starring Randy Allen, "Miss Coco: A Legend In Progress", starring Clinton Leupp, Jim Bailly doing Judy and Barbra, and Lypsinka in "Lypsinka! Now It Can Be Lipsinched!", just to name a few, I'm sure! In San Francisco, we could have caught the Ridiculous Theatrical Company's "Brother Truckers", a web of lust about a world where, among other things, drag is the axis of the planet, starring Everett Quinton and George Osterman. And speaking of L.A.'s Arena dance club, was it my imagination, or did the drag queens take control of the Gay Video Guide Awards ceremony? I had fun, thank you Sabin! I guess what the drag-friendly crowd wanted were a few less warbles from Jimmy James, Marilyn, Chi Chi La Rue and Karen Dior and a few more inches from some of the porn stars in attendance, including Ryan Idol, Joey Stefano and Matt Gunther. Sorry girls! Even the surprise guest of the evening, Andy Bell from Erasure, was just a DQ on one of her off days, judging by his recent Abba-

esque tour stop at the Wiltern here in L.A. And speaking about Miss Matt

Dragazine, a Drag Queen Groupie! Not only did I see the lovely Miss Gunther,

but met Frank Marino for drinks, said hi to the beautiful Lauren and got to meet the fabulous Shaun Derek from the drag review Boy! Oh Boy!! By the way, Chi Chi La Rue was deftly served by her assistant director Gender when it came time to collect the award for "Songs In The Key Of Sex". Chi Chi stole the AVN show with a live rocker called "Two Tons of Love". Sheesh, you're a show stopper! And congratulations to Christine Amen for her nomination! Could I possibly skip around any more? Well, as the Bible-thumpers will tell you, just look at television and witness the fact that we're following the downward spiralling path of the Roman Empire with nuggets like the "Fistful of Datas" episode of Star Trek: The Next



KITTY LU KEMIA - COULD SHE BE DREAMIA?

photo: Peter Palladino

Who is Kitty Lu Kemia? She was born in Oxnard on 10/24/63, moved to Seattle pre-grunge, and is now planted firmly in Echo Park. I first met her at the now defunct Trade one Tuesday night. She was in a simple house frock and trash wig, riding atop the ample shoulders of her friend, the publisher of Agony, as they terrorized the dance floor. I knew right then I had the urge to get to know them both. When she told me she co-edited a zine called Su Madre, I felt I had to exchange numbers with a potential kindred spirit. Although hers was toll and I'm a bit of a prefixist, I contacted her down the line to join me in a public speaking event. We were to give a talk on the night designated for Drag Queens and their admirers to expound on our demi-monde during a series of events known as Gulp. It was just before the recent national election at a Boys Town chicken coffee house called 6 Gallery. More recently, she's been doing some editing for the zine Ben Is Dead, for which I have much zine envy. We brunched together one rainy Los Angeles Sunday at Cafe Latte, the domain of trendwa guppies and yuppies in a pod-mall on the Miracle Mile. Kitty insisted that Chris the Waitrix serve us, and she/he did. My feelers sensed that Chris was a brother-sister, and my business card simply flew out of my wallet. Kitty brought some pix with him from a sitting taken by her photographer friend Peter Palladino. I immediately felt myself swooning from their black and white glamourosity. Kitty is surrounded by familiar... surroundings. She's unstudied and winsome, and not looking unlike Ann Magnuson if you really squint. Her dress, made of wool and bought off an old neighbor for a mere \$10, is tastefully matched with a singular strand 'o pearls. You'll catch her reading Jerk or Blue Persuasion for relaxation, and she loves Pee Wee Herman, Lily Tomlin and Melissa Cohen (La Dee Dah). She just digested 1957's Deception, by Jock Sprull. Her favorite "Wait Til Your Father Gets Home" episode is when the teenage daughter buys a see-through blouse! Her favorite planet is the cloud-enshrouded Venus. We think you'll agree that she pees, therefore we proclaim her Dragazine No. 5's Man In A Dress!

Gunther! Fresh from winning her Gender Award for being The Biggest Bitch On the Set, we merged in traffic at Las Vegas' Gypsy's after the AVN awards, and did she ever read my beads! I am now and forevermore guilty of being a "Drag Queen Groupie". Duh! Gee, what a surprise - the publisher of

Generation. It features the Pinnocchioid-android Data doing Wild West floozy drag in a holodeck program gone awry. And speaking of T.V., keep an eye on your kids Sunday mornings when you strap on the Nickelodeon! That post-atomic cat-and-dog duo Ren and Stimpy have been dipping into the old drag dust

bin a time or two, most recently with **Stimp** letting down a single nose hair for the appreciative **Ren** to climb up the

tower and rescue him in his **Fairest Maid Moron** getup. Thank you **John Kriksafuli** et al for keeping the drag tradition in cartoons alive! In prime time, **Bart** and **Lisa Simpson** have been unwittingly playing **Dragazine's Name Game**, as they recently did when they called in a phoney to **Homer's** bar keep **Barney** so they could get him to ask the bar crowd if there was **Amanda Hugankiss** the bar! Doing drag and being a Drag Queen are two different things, thank you. I agree, but can't **Martin** and **Dame Edna** take our adulation anyway?

Martin's been busy making money on us doing **Drag Face** in the form of his **Shanaynay** character, while all I wanted was a photo of **Dame Edna Everage** to reprint in this issue, but Noo! Their **Fox** reps tell me they're against being associated with **Dragazine!** They're just characters that their creators perform. Aren't they missing the point? Write to **Fox Broadcasting**, P.O. Box 900, **Beverly Hills**, CA 90213, and tell them to fork over the photos for Issue No. 6 or else! By the way, **Edna's** got her own program on **Fox**, but then it disappeared! A mystery shrouded in ..., mystery. Congrats anyway! Locally, now that the weekly club fix of **Trade** on **Sunset** is gone but not forgotten, **Queens** are eagerly awaiting **Dragstrip 66**, from **Paul V** who

brought you **Papa Boner!** Word is that the first one was a blast! I was out of town at the **AVN** awards for that, so I



TRAVELING? SHAUN DEREK SAYS THANKS EVER SO TO VISITING DRAGAZINE FANS!

"Looking like a girl can be a drag, especially the fingernails. I'm scared to take a piss - I feel like Edward Scissorhands! Then there's the drama of staying tucked. Oh, sure, I try and keep a flat looking crotch, but sometimes my balls shift around like the San Andreas fault! I pray to the computer gods that my hardware will stay software, at least for the duration of a performance. Don't get a woody and blow the illusion, coaches my producer! Easy for him to say..., being a Eunich! My acting career is really taking off this year. I'm starring in a new soap opera called 'The Hung and The Breastless!' If you love beautiful Drag Queens, you won't want to miss the enchanting Shaun Derek hostess 'Boy Oh Boy' All Male Review! Not only is he gorgeous, but he's an avid Barbie collector as well! We met him at Gipsy's while visiting Lost Wages, I mean Las Vegas. 'The night life ain't no good life, but it's a cheap neon Vegas life', she said in Blond-ese. Catch his act!

went to the second one - **The Karen Black Valentine Ball**. See my pix in this ish! I wished I'd bumped into my friend **Kitty Lu Kemia** from **Su Madre Magazine** there! O.K., so I'm name dropping, but you should have been with us at **The Advocate's 25th Anniversary Party**, but as I now recall, it was by invitation only, so you'll just have to listen to me rave about it! The fantabulous **Bradley Pickleseimer** greeted us at the door as we were plucked from the line because we were in Drag. Either they needed more color indoors, or they weren't covered for the damage our spiked heels were doing to the blacktop in the parking lot. I got to dance with the elusive poetess/scenester/**Sexy** publisher **Jackie Beat**, snapped a few of the

splendiferous **Sean DeLear**, bumped into **Shevelva Kennedy Sinatra** in boy clothes, and clicked some off with **The Bally Sisters**, who were there performing. Read about them in my close-up column! Swooning was called for over the glamorous **Chrystal Crawford's** ball gown! It was then that I suggested entering her into the **Universal Ball Beauty Contest**, hosted by the ageless beauty (and previous Empress) **LaRey**. What a time was had by all! And whom to my delight showed up to show her support but the **Ever So Diva!** You can catch her act at the **Revolver** on Tuesdays. **Chrystal** didn't win. **Chrystal**, you looked mahvelous! Pity the titty-queens had it all sewn up, so to speak. Won't anyone please interview **Sister Paula**, the transsexual preacher from **Portland**, for me? Perhaps the comedy group **Kids In The Hall** will send in something - they seem to be doing Drag in every other skit they do! Catch their show at 12:30 am **Friday Nights PST** on **CBS!** It was **The Last Tea Time** at **Trumps**, a swank nouvelle cuisine eatery, which was a good reason for a local group of Drag Queens to bid the place adieu in homage to the ladies who lunch, according to a report in **The Los Angeles Times**. Finally, that old homophobic **Pentagon** is at it again! This time the **Right-Wing Stealthies** have lent them their copies of videos featuring the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** at some past **Gay Liberation** celebration as an example of what might happen if they lifted the ban against homosexuals. I guess we could fight fire with fire and show those videos of the **Top Brass** wearing their wives' garter belts and negligees! And now on to announcements! Have you got your reservations made for **Style Summit 1993**? This is the second annual **Convention for the Unconventional**, and if it was anything like the first, **New York** will be the place to be in May 1993. Contact **Ernie Glam**, Ambassador of **Hip**, C/O **Project X**, 37 West 20th Street, Rm. 1007, **New York**, NY 10011, 212-255-5499. Of course, I hope it doesn't overlap with **SPEW 3** on **May 15th** and **16th!** **SPEW 3** is the third annual **Zine Convention**. It was in **Los Angeles** in 1992 at **LACE**, and a good time was had by all! I particularly enjoyed **Drag King Elvis Herselvis's** performance at the dance the **Friday night**

beforehand, and had fun meeting the fabulous Joan Jett Blakk outa Chicago, Justin Bond from San Francisco, DeAundra Peek, cable show hostess

from Atlanta, and Bruce La Bruce, emanating from Toronto, film director and gorilla artist who showed his latest work, "No Skin Off My Ass". For more information, contact SPEW 3, 88 Wellesley St. E., Box 504, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4Y 1H4. And what about California Dreamin'? If you're a transvestite, then you can't miss this girls! Last year it coincided with the Los Angeles riots, and from what Patti Pierce

wrote in the Rochester Network CD News, everyone did what they could to overcome any grief they might have experienced by the cancellation of the night time group excursion to the Queen Mary (not the ship, the bar!) due to the curfew. Thank you Nancy Ann Howes for sending me your wonderful newsletter with that item! And what of Moonlight in Manhattan! A Weekend of Fun and Fantasy, April 23, 24 & 25, 1993, with make-up clinics, shopping en femme and club hopping in The Big Apple! Contact the Greater New York Gender Alliance, 330 W. 45th St., 3 E, New York, NY 10036, or call 212-765-3561, M-Th 6-10 pm. EST. Of course, we can't compete with the wonderful list of Coming Events and Announcements listed in the Crossdresser's Quarterly. Please write to

JMPG, P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510 for details on how to obtain a copy. Switching gears once again, yes, I know you all deserve a cover on future

Dragazines (God willing!), but some of you will have to wait your turn. In the mean time, Hedda Hair of the West Hollywood Cheerleaders wanted to say

hi, and I never say no to beautiful and/or butch Drag Queens! Almost finally, that old L.A. Times is at it again! On 3/14/93, Robert Koehler reported what can happen when Romeo and Juliet is played by an all-female cast! Seems the Old Bard thought it was O.K. to have an all-male cast, as was the custom in his day. Women would not be caught dead being actresses until much later in history. If you'd like to follow this creative troupe of female-to-male TV's, (and we think you do), please look up Company of Women, or write to the Hollywood Actors Theatre. And what's the biggest news of all? Why, it's the fact that Dragazine has been picked up by a national distributor, Tower Books and Video!! Please support them, our advertisers and all the bookstores that carry us! Until next time, get dressed, get out and get seen! LC/

CABLE TELEVISION HAS US BY THE BALLS!

One of the best things about cable television is that it's putting TV back into TV! That's because we were recently lucky enough to tune in and see someone like Gregory Halstead doing "Barbra Listens", a 1/2 hour show on Century Cable Public Access

Channel, here in Los Angeles. Greg and his friend Jeff have this hilarious telephone encounter - Jeff plays Isabelle Sanford off camera, while Greg's Barbra simply reacts with Oll's and Ucchh's and Aggh's to Isabelle, who worries about a litany of stars becoming kidnap victims, beginning with Joan Van Ark. Greg's Drag version of Barbra files her nails, spits out wig hairs, crosses her eye's, giggles, gets depressed when someone mentions her not getting nominated for Best Director for Prince of Tides, does everything but actually have a two way conversation! Cable Television - pay through the nose, but turn it on and tune it in!



IF YOU'RE UNDER THE WEATHER, GET OVER IT!

Or so says Mrs. Mouth, aka Eva Moskowitz, aka Paul Silver, an import from East Coast cable T.V. She's an upside-down mouth with a wig over her chin and eyes and a nose painted on that same chin. She talks and eats and sometimes does both at the same time. She makes reservations without intending to use them, giving reservation clerks a hard time, and basically poses questions like "Why are boogers green?" Well, if you don't know, then don't answer, but if you want to know more, then you can't miss Mrs. Mouth! She also has a segment of a type of dollhouse theater gone Drag - it's a riot! One of the dolls tells the other that she was deflowered by a "hook shit"! Sick, but then, we think sick has it's place too. As Mrs. Mouth would say, "Look before you leap, or let the person behind you go first!"



A gratuitous photo of The Fabulicious West Hollywood Cheerleaders. Rah, Rah... Raw!



40 Lashes

- and how to apply them -

by Dierdre La Diva

Picture that it's Halloween night. You finally got the last minute touches completed on your dress - you just had your shower and finished shaving. You're ready to begin applying the glam that will transform you into Miss Movie Queen Deluxe. Unfortunately, your two faux-sisters are eight light years ahead of you getting ready. In other words, they're already at the point of shading and contouring their eyes! But you still have an ace up your sleeve; one friend is totally non-experienced in his Max Factor arts, while the other is an old pro. Ingenues have many uses. Don't rush! Remain calm! This is a very delicate artistic adventure that you're on. You have to feel it. Relax. Think flowers, fluffy teddy bears, flawless nails..., ready? Dermablend mono-chrome #0 - it's not just for under-eye circles! Honey, this is your first base! Put it everywhere until your skin color has been erased and you are a white lifeless ghost. Remain calm. Think butterflies, daffodils. It's going to start getting tricky, so go with the flow. Move to the darker Dermablend - Monochrome #2 and give yourself back a fat nose and incredible cheekbones. Pat with translucent powder and grab the next Dermablend #5 - it's very dark so use as shadows - make the sides of your nose disappear and a dash under your cheek bones to make

them cave in, while at the same time standing out. Translucent powder everywhere! Oh yes! Stop to admire yourself! Mmmmm! Aren't we looking good! Hold the powder puff in your hand as if you're about to do something, but actually the only purpose is to distract your frazzled friends who are rounding their final laps to completion. Time to make that face look more drag-queen real. Get your black and dark brown eyebrow pencils. Keep thinking 'Slim, Arch, Out!' Thick enough? Good! One last layer. Now those eyes. Throw those eye pencils aside and grab your black liquid eyeliner. Easy, calm down. Don't feel any pressure, but this first stroke is critical. It has to begin at just the right spot and thicken to the perfect ending. By now, your hand is shaking as you're holding the brush up to your eye. The best advice right now is just do it and forget the love/hate relationship you have with liquid eyeliner. All right! Both eyes are outlined and you're feeling very pleased. Your momentum is going, so ride it! Grab all of those blue eye shadows! You're Jayne Mansfield and you use blue shades like a total trailer trash tramp! That's it - now darker! More navy blue, more pointy in the corner. Oh yes! Look at those eyes! Almost done - all that's left is the most crucial moment in the whole process - applying false eyelashes -



In boy drag, ring leaderess and dragtivist, Dierdre La Diva with her fashion-attack cohorts, Christine Amen and Wendy Fatladysings are posed and poised, prior to their ascent into womaninity.

top and bottom! Do you have to do bottom? Yes, of course! How else are you going to be Jayne, the sex-bombshell galore? First, ignore your friend's threats of leaving you and all their other petty distractions! This is your solo turn! It's the most important part you must deal with all by yourself (you know if you ask your friends for help, they will surely sabotage you!). So, ready your lashes and do a practice run. Where will they begin, and where will they go to? Now the glue. Dot it along the eyelash's line and holding it to your eye, allow yourself that moment of doubt. Yes, you could easily put this first corner way up into the crease of your eye, but you're not going to. Remember - you just have to do it. Take a deep breath, and plunge right in! Just know it's going to be right - just feel confident and..., first touchdown! And keep going..., Yes! Done and perfect! Hot! Unfortunately, you're behind the time schedule, so you can't over-indulge here! Just use the adrenaline that's now pumping from all this excitement to lunge you onto the other eye. This one isn't going to be as bad - you already know you can do it 'cause you've done it before. Practice, turn, good, now the real thing. Deep breath, and, oh yes, keep going, nice - smooth, done! Ooo la la! Admire yourself! Now, with your newly restored confidence, grab the bottom lashes. You are trembling again, and rightly so. Bottom lashes are straight from hell! Any possibilities of covering

up a slip-up on top are eliminated on the bottom. Everything is there to be seen and it must be perfect! Measure the lashes, make a test run, apply glue, take a deep, deep breath and plunge! Eureka! Now repeat this for the last time - before your frazzled nerves start snapping! One - test run, two - glue, three - do it! Oh yes! Now look at yourself! Admire what you had the courage to do! This is butter that you have to pay yourself so pay it! You're hot! Nobody's going anywhere without you! You are a hot, fabulous movie star! Grab that hand mirror and check your eyes out from different angles! Practice different expressions! Mmmm! Wah! Love yourself! Now for your final two steps. Grab your lip-pencil and outline a yummy party look, color it in and then take an agreeable lipstick and let those two lips shine! Keep moving on! Take your blush and first sweep on your dark shade on and under the cheek bones, then take the lighter shade and pile it on over it! Oh, what the heck! Dust your forehead, chin, ears and anywhere else you feel the urge! All done?

Great! Slip on the dress, shoes and the "pull-it-all-together" wig! Wow! Jayne, your hot! Now shimmy on outside and grace everyone with your presence!





Karen Dior

“High On Heels”

with Lois Commondenominator

Lois: Hi! We're driving around to shop for a VCR. It's November 27th, and it's 9:30 p.m. and it's a crisp winter evening and this is your commentator, Lois Commondenominator for Dragazine Magazine. I'm in my Volkswagen driving down La Cienega Boulevard to The Good Guys in the Beverly Connection, which just happens to be next door to Humphrey Yogurt, and who is in my Volkswagen with me but Miss Karen Dior! So Karen, you just came back from a fabulous seminar. Can you briefly describe that experience?

Karen: The seminar was actually a producer's training for the Loving Relationships Training.

LC: Is that one of those things that Mary Ann person has something to do with?

KD: No, she had nothing to do with it. If I tried to explain the Loving Relationships Training and my training as a producer, it would take up this whole interview!

LC: O.K., but what I'm trying to get at is that you are still growing as a person, and you are still attempting to enrich yourself and you're not just a one-dimensional person. Now, were here at the left-turn lane and we're going to pass the Daily Grill, and so anyway, we were talking about the cover photo, and what we might do. We were thinking of doing either an "Andy Warholesque" type of repeating photo, or perhaps a picture of you from your most recent film "Stick Pussy". Congratulations! Have you heard anything about whether or not it's a smashing success?

KD: No, I haven't. I've heard that the editing was a living nightmare.

LC: Tell us what the story of the movie was.

KD: Well, in this business, we usually do one or two scenes out of sequence, and the movies usually don't have much of a plot. We rarely have scripts, and we usually have little time to rehearse.

LC: I see! So, let's turn this off just a second while we park.

LC: We've now decided to stop off at Humphrey Yogurt's first. Tell me, who is Karen Dior?

KD: Karen Dior is a creation - a character that I've created that doesn't really exist. It's certainly a part of me, but it's not the only part of me. It's a really playful part - you could say the feminine part, I suppose. A lot of people expect me to be like the character they see. I

think that people who get to know me would certainly all agree that I'm not like the persona in the movies that I'm in.

LC: You're well known as an actor who does cross-dressing in adult movies. Just for the record, if our readers wanted to rent one of these movies in their local store, what titles might they find your work in?

KD: "Karen's Bi-Line", "Painted", "Sharon and Karen", "Stick Pussy", "Transfigured" and "Transitions". "Stick Pussy", "Transfigured" and "Transitions" were directed by my very good friend Lyla Kadog for HeShe Studios. I'm also very excited to have just completed two videos for Bizarre that I directed! "Bitter She Males" and "TV Dildo Fantasy"!

LC: And you're also a singer in a band!

KD: Yes, I sing in "The Johnny Depp Clones", and we've recently recorded a single called "All American Boy" that will be out soon, and we'll soon do a video for MTV.

LC: What other creative things have you done? Tell us about working with Loni Anderson!

KD: Loni was really great! The movie that I did with her wasn't the first time I'd been on television, but it was the biggest part I'd had at that time. I was in prison, and I had information about the man that was out to get her and hunt her. He had actually raped her and was in prison with me, so it was this very dramatic scene and my character was really evil, so it was fun.

LC: You were playing the part of his Loni Anderson substitute while he was in prison. Why did they cast you?

KD: Well, basically, I think they just cast me because I auditioned for the part and was really good! I wasn't in drag for the part, actually. They considered making me look like Loni - they did put a blonde wig on me. I was supposed to look like her but I wasn't in drag so I wasn't supposed to look like a woman. It was interesting - it was sort of strange too.

LC: If someone were to meet you for the first time, what would you like them to be told about you before you met them?

KD: Gee, I don't know - maybe nothing so that they would be surprised. I think the most important things to me about me are that I'm really honest and that I really love people a lot, and that I'm generally pretty sincere.

LC: So, for instance, when I see you at a club

like Trade, and you're in your boy outfit, and I say Hi, this is, am I allowed to use your boy name in this interview?

KD: Sure!

LC: This is Geoff. Can I also say, by the way, he does a character called Karen Dior. Would you care?

KD: No, I wouldn't care at all. I'm rarely offended, and I'm not hung up about a lot of the things that some people that cross-dress might be, in that I'm totally honest about my life. I don't care who knows what I do, and I totally accept everything that I do, so I usually expect everyone else to, and they usually do. If people call me by my real name or by Karen, or see me dressed as a boy or a girl, or call me she or he, it really doesn't matter. A lot of people are very uptight about when they're dressed as a woman, they have to be referred to as "she", but it's really confusing for some people, especially people who aren't that familiar with all of it to keep track of it all.

LC: So you don't stick to pronouns.

KD: No.

LC: Who is your idol?

KD: God

LC: Which God?

KD: The God.

LC: We don't have to get into religion.

KD: I don't really have any idols. When I was growing up, I always loved people who were very colorful, like Boy George, who is a friend of mine now. I loved Peter Burns from Dead or Alive and other people who weren't afraid to be themselves and break the rules. They were sort of role models for me actually because I feel that's what I've done. I've done exactly what I've wanted to and broken a lot of the rules and got away with it.

LC: What are the rewards of getting away with it?

KD: The best thing for me is to know that I'm living my life exactly the way I want to, and that people tend to love me for it, and are not offended by it. Hopefully, my life could be a demonstration for other people to lead the lives they want to. People are always afraid to say they're drag queens or porn actors, that it might ruin any chance of a legitimate career. Everything that I've done that has gone against the set rules has helped me.

LC: Yes, but you don't do cameo appearances in those drag/hard-core porn movies, you're

the star of them! There are also fetish types of drag movies on the market. Can you recommend any? Do you watch any yourself? Would you like to plug any?

KD: Some of the ones that look good, I'll watch. I think the movies that I'd like to plug are the ones that I've directed that are coming out soon, because that's what I'm really the most excited about now. They should be really fun - they're fetish movies, but we did them sort of tongue-in-cheek so that people who are seriously into those scenes will enjoy them, but also people who aren't quite so serious can enjoy them too. We did a she-male cat fighting movie called "Bitter She-Males", and Chi Chi La Rue is in it actually, in one of her first big roles.

LC: I don't think Chi Chi would ever have a small role. Now, exactly what do you mean by fetish?

KD: Fetish technically is something that most people would not consider sexual that people who are into that specific thing get sexual feelings from. Some people would have a foot fetish, and looking at feet and get aroused sexually, or look at high heels or wear high heels or touch feet, etc. Most people would not get aroused sexually by these things.

LC: Do you think a straight man that likes wearing women's clothes has a fetish? The reason I ask is because the Transvestite Community does not enjoy using the word fetish at this time because they think that it is a negative term. What do you think?

KD: I don't think of it as a negative term, but

I'm careful to explain what I mean when I use it because some people might think of it as a negative term, but other people might think of the word "transvestite" as a negative term. I always try not to offend people.

LC: Why do you try? Some people make a living out of offending people!

KD: That's true!

LC: If the public wanted to see you as a man, what name do you go by? Can we tell what name people might see go by in the credits of the adult movies?

KD: Oh, God! I suppose so. Rick Van is the name I use in adult movies. I've done gay movies, straight movies, bi-sexual movies, every type of movie. Certainly more different types than anyone I know of.

LC: Anything you're ashamed of telling?

KD: If there really were, I wouldn't tell you now, would I? No, there's not anything I'm ashamed of telling, because I feel really innocent about it all. I've had fun and I've expressed my sexuality and learned a lot. Hopefully, I've helped other people to broaden their horizons. A lot of people who are gay are hung up on the thought of drag queens. People who are heterosexual that like to cross-dress think it's really horrible to be gay, or people who are in straight porn don't approve of people who do gay porn. I've been interested in lots of different things, so I've done them. I think people should feel free to do whatever they want.

LC: What do you want to do that you haven't done yet?

KD: I want a big record contract.

LC: So you really want to be a big recording star! You want to be known for that eventually rather than the adult stuff?

KD: I've really enjoyed doing the adult films, and it's exactly what I've wanted to do, but I'm pretty close to being finished with it because I feel like I've done everything I can do. Now I've even directed, so I've been involved in every part of the process. It's been great, but there are other things I want to do. I love singing, and I've always been involved in music. I sang gospel music and country music, and I've done musical theater. I trained to be an opera singer in college.

LC: What is your favorite opera?

KD: I love them all

LC: Do you usually sing the boy part or the girl part?

KD: I usually sing the boy part! But I really love singing, so I'm really having fun with this band doing rock and roll music. We have a small contract and I think we're probably going on tour in Europe soon. I love singing and I love acting too, so that's why I've been pursu-

ing the TV parts and the movies now. This year I've done a lot of different things in that area, and right now that's much more challenging to me. It's no longer challenging to do a porn film, but singing and acting are things that I really love, and I really love continuing to break the rules and going in there and showing people, yes, I'm a porn star, and I'm not ashamed of it - I'm proud of it!

LC: Whose rules are you breaking?

KD: Main Stream Society's rules - the unspoken rules that say that people who do porn movies are bad.

LC: Do you lip-sync?

KD: I lip-sync and I also sing live. Now, more often I'm singing live.

LC: Are you particular about how well you lip-sync? Are you at all sloppy about it?

KD: I think when I lip-sync, actually, I'm really good. I think just from being a drag queen for so long, it seems like a really natural thing. I consider myself an actor, and I do a lot of different things, but one of the things I do is being a drag queen, and it's something that's really been fun for me and I enjoy every part of it, from putting on the heels and trying on the clothes to lip syncing and being really silly and dramatic. It's not the only thing that I do, but it's really fun. I think that a lot of female impersonators feel like they have to pretend that they hate that part of it and that it's only a job, and if they weren't getting paid, they would never get in drag again. I certainly am glad that I can make money doing something that's really fun for me.

LC: Are you gay?

KD: I'm bisexual.

LC: So your partner must accept your cross-dressing nature, or would they have to accept that cross-dressing was one of your jobs? Do you like to crossdress occasionally for personal or private reasons?

KD: Well, first of all, any person that I'm involved with would have to accept everything about me and love everything about me, or I wouldn't be interested in being involved with them. It's never really been a problem. I think partly because for me, it is more like a job. I wouldn't just get dressed up and prance around the bedroom. I don't think there's anything wrong with that, but it doesn't really do anything for me. For me, the pleasure is in performing, and just like performing out of drag is fun too. It really is a job, but it's a fun job.

LC: So why do you think that drag is seemingly more popular now?

KD: I think certainly in the public eye it's more popular because it's more acceptable now because of people like Lypsinka, and Chi Chi La Rue, and me, and people are seeing more drag queens and female impersonators. Even the transsexuals like Tula have been successful. It's colorful and interesting and different.





has always been around the main stream, but it's hit right now. I think there have always been the same proportion of secret cross-dressers.

LC: I look at Tula and think that she is totally a woman to me. I feel that part of her allure is how well her cosmetic surgeon did for her, and simply not just her personality. Part of your allure is that we know you're a boy underneath, and that's what's interesting to me. Tula is not a boy underneath - she's all woman, as far as I'm concerned.

LC: Don't you think that people like your type of excitement - men who look like women rather than men becoming women. It's two different camps, isn't it?

KD: I think it's different. I think straight, normal, mainstream society might not see it as different as I would see it. When they're looking at Tula, part of her fame is that she used to be a boy. She wouldn't be on those talk shows if she were just another model. I'm very different because I don't want to be a woman. I have no plans for sex change.

LC: Let's compare sizes. What is your size in men's pants and shoes and jackets?

KD: Men's pants, probably like 29, shoes 8 1/2, and jacket 38, which is pretty average sizes. My feet are a little bit small, which allows me to fit into 9 1/2 in women's shoes. I'm almost 6 feet tall, so when you add heels and hair, that's a tall girl. I'm really glad and really lucky that I can buy shoes anywhere, and I know that's really a problem for a lot of people. Because I'm really thin, my body is not really feminine, but it's not really masculine - it's in between. My waist goes in so it's kind of unusual. My body has always been feminine and soft, and in fact I work out at the gym lifting weights to build muscle tone so I work really hard, or else I would look more feminine.

LC: Do you ever have somebody make clothes for you?

KD: Michael Schmidt, who does the chain-male stuff for Cher and Tina Turner, has done a lot of things for me. I really love his stuff because it's really creative and different, and I

also get a lot of things at Patricia Field in New York, because she has a lot of fun stuff. I have a lot of traditional female clothes that I wear sometimes in films, but if I have a choice, I go for things that are really fun and playful, and almost silly because I'm not trying to be a woman - I'm being colorful and being fun.

LC: So you're not a man trying to be a woman - you're a man trying to be a drag queen.

KD: Yes, that's exactly it. I like all kinds of stuff, but I like things reminiscent of the 60's right now, because I think they're fun. Of course, Chanel is nice in any decade. Jean Paul Gaultier is very fun.

LC: Can we ask you any secrets about how you bring off your look?

KD: I don't really know what I can tell you. I'm having come out very soon the Karen Dior Make Up Video. I'm going to explain everything step-by-step. Through trial and error and various Hollywood make-up artists, I've learned a lot of things about make up, and also little drag secrets like how to get hips if you don't have them with foam rubber. Little hints that drag queens give each other in shows.

LC: Can you give a preview from that by explaining to us how you hide your penis so well?

KD: (chortles) I tuck it very far back. Sometimes if I'm wearing just a G-string, I'll use duct tape and tape it back, and that is going to be thoroughly explained in the video. It's kind of an elaborate procedure. Once it's done, I can sit in a chair and bounce up and down and have a great time without a date!

LC: Ouch! The other night at the Gay Video Guide Awards, you weren't wearing a G-string or anything, and it was so realistic! I thought you went back East for the change

KD: I was wearing whip cream, so I guess my favorite designer is Dairy Queen!

LC: That's all you were wearing, as I recall - you were a hit! What is the funniest or most embarrassing thing that has happened to you while you were in drag?

KD: Everything that could possibly happen to someone in drag has happened to me. Because of what I do, I have to run around in broad daylight in drag sometimes. So I'll need to go to the bank at the last minute in drag. I've been stopped by the police speeding in drag, and often mistaken for a woman in public by men. Men will come up and try to speak to me. I have to try to not say anything or go away quietly, or fake a woman's voice. Sometimes I use my lowest male voice and shock the hell out of them! It's flattering, but it makes me feel really sorry for women because a really attractive woman can't even go to the grocery store without being harassed by men, because I know I certainly can't go anywhere without that happening! I would think it would get annoying

eventually.

LC: You've been overseas numerous times. Tell us about your most recent adventure.

KD: My trip to India! I went to India on a spiritual journey. I stayed at two different ashrams with Sondra Ray, who is the author of many books, including "Loving Relationships". I'm involved with this program called The Loving Relationships Training, and a component of that is re-birthing. I'm a professional re-birther, and I'm also starting to do some trainings. I went to India to pray and meditate and meet the gurus and all that sort of thing.

LC: But you also came back with a wild haircut!

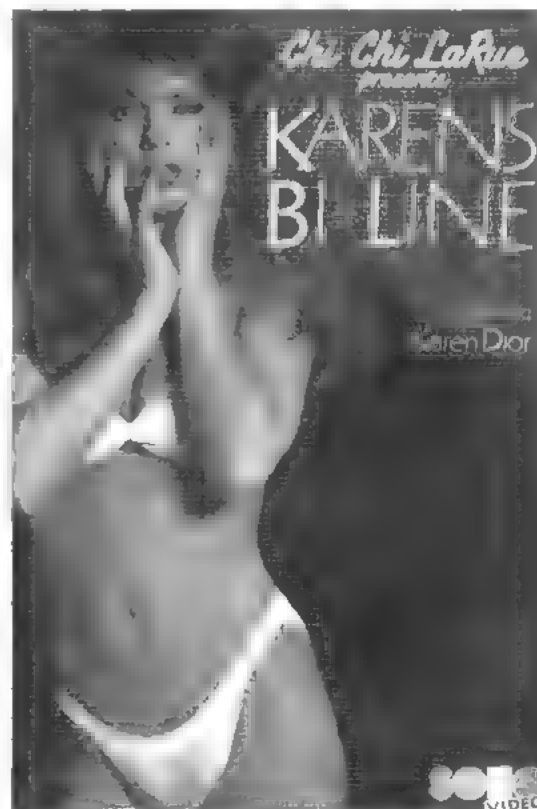
KD: Yes, I shaved my head. Shaving the head is symbolic of a lot of different things - surrendering to the guru, letting go of the ego, letting go of your past to make room for a new future, for whatever you want for your future.

LC: It's a good thing you have a nice looking skull

KD: Yeah, I guess so. At first I was doing it because it was really important to me to do spiritually, but then I thought, gee, I'm not going to have any work or at least I'll have to wear wigs. I've actually done some modeling and acting things already with my head shaved. People seem to love it, and I'll show up carrying my wigs, and they'll go, oh, don't wear your wigs! We really like the way you look with your head bald!

LC: Balled, starring Karen Dior! Hey! I made a joke! Describe your dream outfit.

KD: The thing that pops into my mind is a very elaborate, very beautiful evening gown, because I tend to wear things that are see-



Queer, isn't it?

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because I tend to wear things that are see-through, or into character. I don't really have a beautiful evening gown because I don't have a use for one. Even when I go to a dance where the people are wearing evening gowns, I end up going dramatic and wearing lingerie or something.

LC: Tomorrow night there's an event by the local Imperial Court. Do you ever do things with them?

KD: I've thought about entering a pageant for fun, but competing really isn't what I do in drag. It's not something I'm interested in. I'm doing drag for fun and for work, and I don't have those evening gowns, and there's really not much money in doing that too. I would rather put all my energy into acting or writing a new song.

LC: Tell us about you and vegetables! Aren't you a vegetarian?

KD: Yes I am. For me, there are a lot of benefits. I don't seem to get sick anymore. Studies have shown that people who are vegetarians live an average of 15 to 20 years longer than people who are not. If you study nutrition, meat isn't good for you at all. There's plenty of protein from other sources. I don't eat fish or poultry either. I respect animals and it doesn't seem right for me to eat them. Meat doesn't even taste good to me now. I went to a Thanksgiving dinner, and there was this big, dead bird carcass on the table, and I tried to be polite and I took a little piece and ate two pieces of it and it tasted horrible - I just couldn't eat it. People are starving because other people are eating meat. The land that could raise so much more food if it were used to raise vegetables is being wasted to grow meat. There's deforestation of the rain forests which are being cut down to make grazing land for cattle, there are all the reports that say that 75% of all meat rots a little bit before it gets to your table, so there's that thing going on. If you really research it, I don't see how you could eat meat.

LC: You're not alone! My sister is a vegetarian also. If there's any one thing you could change about yourself, what would it be?

KD: Before I would change the way I look, before I would change my bank account, before I would change any circumstances in my life, I would have total confidence and trust in myself 100% of the time, because I know that is what makes me succeed in anything. I feel that most of the time, but I'd like it all of the time.

LC: Tell us about you and Madonna!

KD: What about me and Madonna? What rumors have you heard? It's interesting - Madonna and I keep ending up in the same places - going to the same premiers, and we're bumping into each other. She came to see me perform once when I was singing. She keeps

coming up in my life. People have been saying to me that they have this feeling that I'll be working with Madonna. I'm starting to sound like Shirley MacLaine!

LC: Do you want to tell us about a past life?

KD: I think certainly in my last life, I was a woman. I came into this life knowing about the energy of being a woman. I have good feelings about other past lives. I don't know what her name was, but I think she was very beautiful. I can't say these things - they sound so arrogant! I have memories of my last life of being a moderately famous woman, and in this life it's been relatively easy for me to be famous as a woman. At first, it was more difficult as a man because I had all those memories of being a woman.

LC: How did you think of the name Karen Dior?

KD: It sort of just came to me. The first name I chose was actually this French name, Anais, but people had trouble pronouncing it. They would call me Ani-Ass or Anus! So finally I decided that I was going to choose a name that no matter how drunk someone is, they can say it. So I picked the name Karen. Actually, Karen was the name of my best friend in high school. The name Dior sounded like a drag queen kind of last name.

LC: Are you reading any books now?

KD: I'm reading a book that's called "Think and Grow Rich", by Napoleon Hill. It's an old classic. The principles in the book have helped people to make lots of money! I strongly recommend it to anyone!

LC: Do you play any musical instruments?

KD: I play the piano, and I was in band in high school.

LC: Well, you know what? I think we're pretty much done. Is there anything else that you'd like to mention?

KD: Oh, yes, thank you for reminding me - I'm finishing writing a book. The working title is "I Was A Teenage Drag Queen". It's going to be out soon, about my life growing up as the child of a politician, which has never been mentioned in an interview before, as well as inside dish on Hollywood celebrities and celebutants.

LC: Can you give us any dish about any celebrities?

KD: You'll have to read the book!

LC: You've been a delight, and I appreciate your time and your wonderful presence! Thank you!

KD: Thank you!

At press time Karen wanted you to be on the look out for her videos, "Bi-Sexual", "Bi Annonymous", "Bi-Golly", "The Crying Flame", "TV Evangelist", "Go-Girl" and finally her make-up video, "How To Be A Beautiful Woman Or Just Look Like One!" For bookings write to: Karen Dior, P.O. Box 461481 Los Angeles, CA 90046

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NEWS



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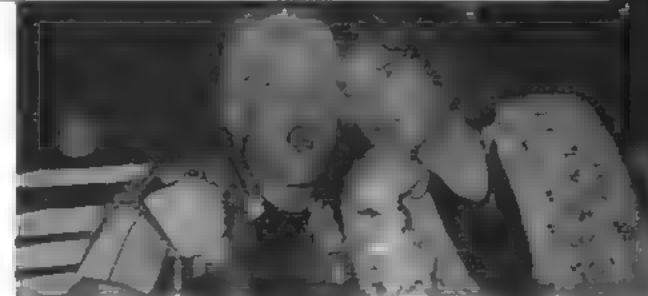
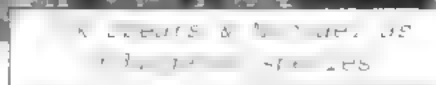
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Karen Black Valentine Ball



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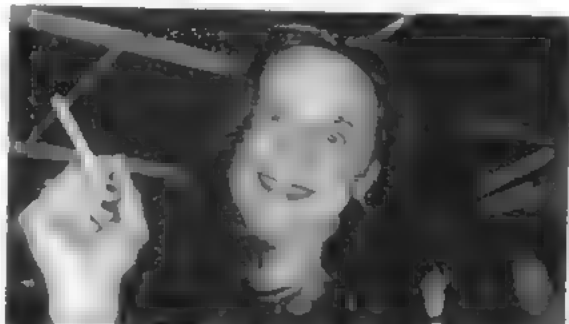
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Dragstrip 66 is the new monthly theme party, where you dress a mess and get in for less! Los Angeles Drags and their admirers converged on Rudolpho's in Silverlake, but many of you locally have already read everything you wish to know in that marvelous rag The Advocate, or that wonderful throwaway Planet Homo, or that other fabulous schmata, Spunk. Paul V and friends, who were known among other things to have brought us Papa Boner, have whipped up the local alternative Drag Community into a tizzy! And here are the photos to prove it! It was on the occasion of the Karen Black Valentine Ball, and who should

Flawless Cher De Watley, Ge. velt



Cher De Watley, Ge. velt

show up to her own party, but the real Karen Black!!!! I spent all day downtown in the garment district to keep up with my new Drag pal Ruby Tuesday, and found a lip-spacking red-shortie fake fur jacket, stretchie pants with a tapestry pattern, added my old apres ski boots and blond wig. Ruby and I stopped at Fredericks, but they didn't have large enough platform stilletos for Ruby, and I was being sensible. Others in attendance included Gender, Chi Chi La



Cher De Watley, Ge. velt



Cher De Watley, Ge. velt



Cher De Watley, Ge. velt



Chi Chi La Rue, Ge. velt



Cher De Watley, Ge. velt

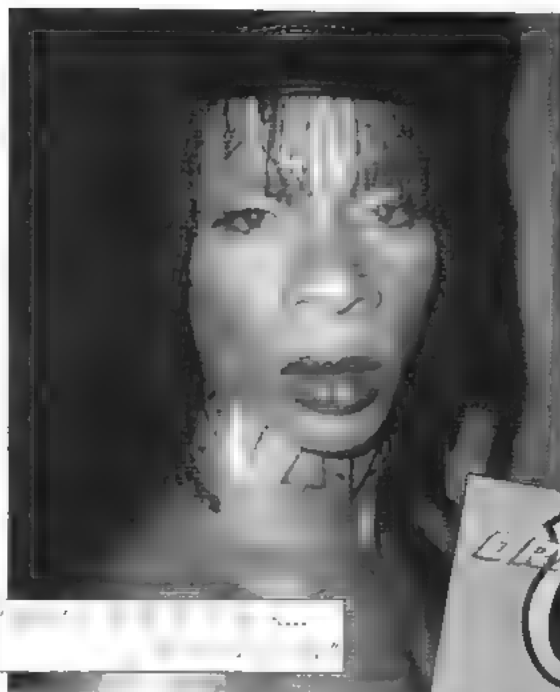


Cher De Watley, Ge. velt

Rue, Cher De Watley, Brie Rabin who was fighting like a cat and a dog with Shevelva Kennedy-Sinatra, Divinity Fudge, Davida Kinki and Stefan Bravo, Stigmata Hari, Brandy from Drance, Paula du Plenty, Summer Caprice, Sean DeLear, Ron Athey, Mixtress Victoria and Vivian from the Cunt Club, new porno star and Chi Chi La Rue Discovery Zak Spears, Hugo Au Go Go, Jeffrey Hilbert and Charles Baker from the old Trade and



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soon Cheap?, Jacke Beat, Ant, the Bally Sisters, my waiter from Café Latte, Trash, and obviously, there was a cast of thousands and naming names has its limits! I understand that there were some very notable notables there too, but you'll just have to get a back issue of the local zines mentioned for a complete line-up. Well, LA has finally found culture, besides the frozen yogurt type! Get thee to the wigatorium stat!



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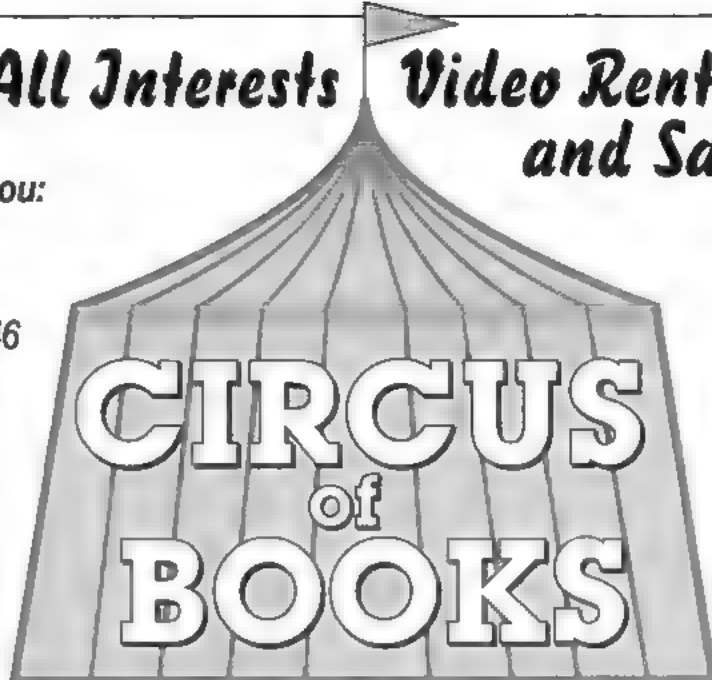
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Ain't Miss Bea Hayvin!

Review of "Ladylike Deportment" with Paula Jordan Sinclair *by Lois Commendenominator*

"The world is sometimes like a convention of the blind when it comes to people seeing us in public," quips Paula Jordan Sinclair in her instructional video "Ladylike Deportment". What Paula means is that far from many of our fears and/or fantasies, appearing in public cross-dressed can as easily result in invisibility as it can in glares and stares. People mill around each other in their own worlds and aren't always paying attention to whether the lady across the mall is hiding more under her layered look than water weight gain. She goes on to include several astute observations about life and how the concept of ladylike deportment has an effect upon us internally as well as externally. We attend Paula's video-taped seminar and watch her enlist eager cross-dressed volunteers from the audience who need her help to be truly ladylike.

Behaviors that suggest gentility, manners, good grooming, stature, a feminine gait, elegance and propriety must be conformed to. These are some of the artificial external indicators Western culture has accepted as subtle cues of being well-bred in society, but ladylike deportment is more than a girlish giggle, or having your cigarette lit for you, or having others open doors for you. Ladylike deportment goes beyond mere appearances, when simple maneuvers whose absence sometimes cause discomfort on both sides of the aisle must be taught and practiced. The video never implies however, that one can entirely eliminate the suspicions of onlookers, nor is it suggested that successfully passing in public must be a realistic goal. Rather, if we agree with the old adage that there's no satisfaction in a job half done, to borrow a phrase from "Paris Is Burning", aim your arrow as high as you can - you might be surprised how high it lands!

The difference between what it means to behave like a woman as

opposed to acting ladylike becomes the central focus of the video. As far back as I can remember however, when an adult told a little girl to act more ladylike, it was always in a corrective and coercive manner, to chide and rein in behavior. Many women now eschew these so-called standards, considering them throwbacks to a bygone era, or see them as a backlash from the tyrannical right-winged paternalists who wish to counter the strides in equality and power made by the opposite sex. Still, many on both sides of the political spectrum cling to some form of ladylike deportment without apology.

Funny as it might sound, acting ladylike does not come naturally! It must be learned, and can be put to use in many ways. Although some feminists reject it as suspect, I can imagine how it might be a form of sexual signaling. Alternately, like baking cookies and raising a family, ladylike deportment should be available as an honorable lifestyle choice for women, but if women want to reject it, cross-dressers are waiting in the wings as quick understudies.

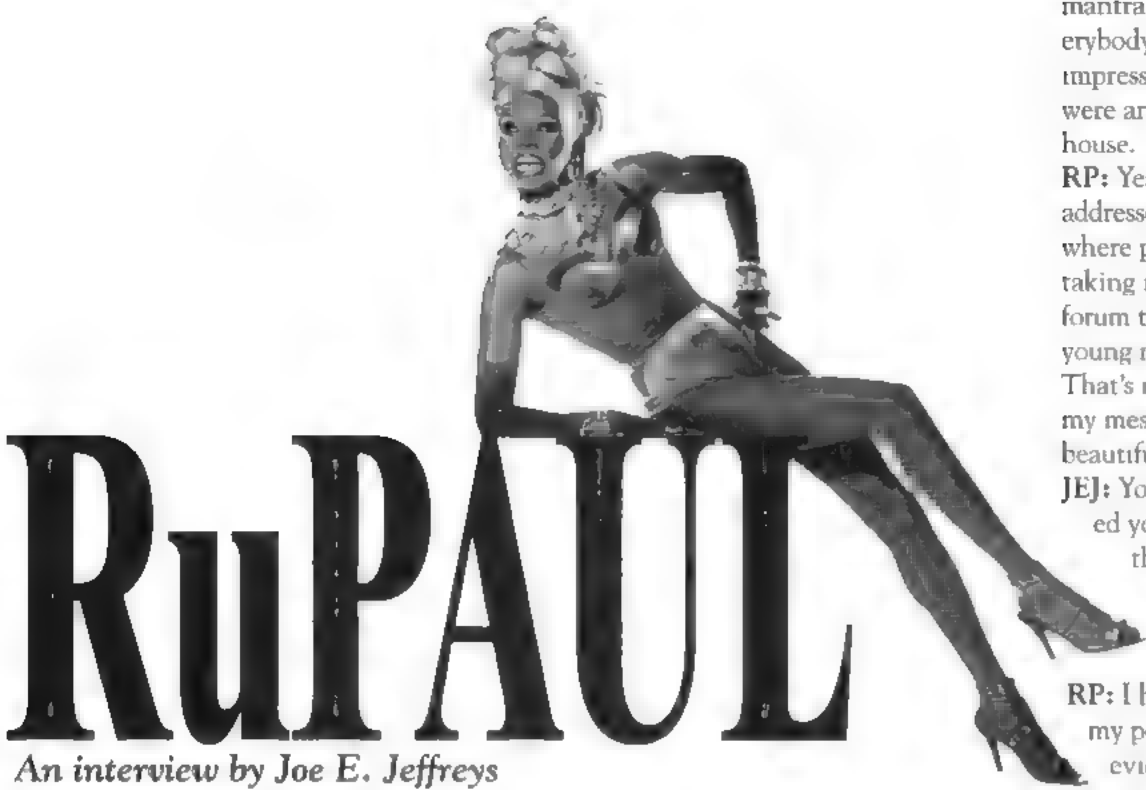
There are a variety of reasons why this type of decorum would attract cross-dressers. Joy might be found in the successful practice of movements that can easily be categorized as stylized Kabuki. Many people yearn for the safe confines of strict rules and guidelines, and even enjoy the forced coercion of lockstep conformity, attaining a sense of serenity not found elsewhere in one's life by following an otherwise proscribed set of behaviors. There is additionally a giddy rush of adrenaline triggered by the reflection of hideous mall lighting off your 5 inch spike-heeled patent leather pumps!

Are we emulating our "oppressors", or are women goddesses on pedestals whose customs must be copied by we unworthy worshipers? Are we spoofing women, or are we imitating certain

stereotypes? I'll let university professors decide if all of this energy devoted to emulating women by cross-dressing men promotes the species, but wouldn't it be wild if it were true? Learning these rules of deportment does earn approval from other cross-dressers, ala shades of male bonding! And then there are the dual pleasures of blending into the crowd and finding self acceptance.

Standing at attention is a very male thing to do, while leaning one's weight on one leg or creating angularity in one's stance can be a form of ladylike deportment. Going down stairs sideways, wearing loose fitting bracelets so that veins don't bulge in already enlarged hands, avoiding runs in pantyhose when entering or exiting your car - these are all important points to consider before attaining another level of satisfaction with the cross-dressing experience, and this tape addresses these and other concerns both wryly and astutely. Emulating female activities, expending all of the energy required to do so and finally attempting to experience their point of view can be something women might be proud men would wish to do, and could be ultimately instrumental in furthering human liberation.

While I fly wig first into hyperbole, I'm sure that Paula Sinclair didn't have human liberation or survival of the species in mind as a theme. I can still, however easily recommend this video and the rest in the series from CDS as both informative and entertaining. Other titles in this series are, "What is Femininity", "Art & Illusion, Tricks & Tips", "Speaking As A Woman with Alison Laing" and "Basic Make Up Application". They are \$40 each including shipping and handling. Please write to CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA, 19406-1263 for your order, or call 215-640-9449, and tell them you saw it in Dragazine! LC/



RuPAUL

An interview by Joe E. Jeffreys

RuPaul Charles opines, "We are all born naked. The rest is drag." With a feel-good message of self love served up at a jaunty angle, RuPaul is currently staggering the music and video industries with his Supermodel project for the Tommy Boy record label. While the two industries are no strangers to performers who toy with gender roles - Divine, Boy George, Sylvester, Pete Burns - RuPaul has managed to slap them to a new attention with both his extraordinary talent and his sincere and deep-felt mantra - "Everybody Say Love." From his humble beginnings on the drag scene in Atlanta, through a migration to New York City that saw him crowned Queen of Manhattan, RuPaul, with nowhere left to go but up, now trumpets himself as Supermodel of the World. The new title has seen him sashay down many a designer's runway as well as being selected as one of the year's top divas by Interview Magazine!

For this phone interview, Dragazine plucked the leggy wonder from a pool side in Orlando, Florida, where he was luxuriating before one of what have suddenly become numerous road appearances

RuPaul Charles: Hello.

Joe E. Jeffreys: Hello, could I speak with RuPaul Charles please

RP: Hey, this is Ru!

JEJ: So, I understand they just summoned you from the side of the swimming pool there in Orlando.

RP: Yes, I'm just a blistering scab right now!

JEJ: And you'll be performing there tonight.

RP: I'll be playing at a club called Southern Nights. Just the sound of it is so romantic!

JEJ: I saw you last week here in New York City at the Palladium.

RP: What a funny place to see me!

JEJ: That's what I thought. I'm used to seeing you at the Pyramid or Boy Bar or at Wigstock. I had no idea what to expect

RP: Where did you stand?

JEJ: I was up in the balcony.

RP: Good, so what did my dress look like?

JEJ: What little there was of it looked very nice.

RP: It was glittering and stuff.

JEJ: It picked up the light nicely. And the legs, they did go all the way to the floor. I couldn't quite see the shoes, but I occasionally got glances and they were fierce!

RP: They were black Frederick's of Hollywood shoes.

JEJ: Going back to the fact that the performance was at the Palladium, I was surprised at the message that you still put across to what can at best be described as a very mixed crowd.

RP: And what message was that pray tell?

JEJ: Well, I was expecting the RuPaul

mantra to survive intact, you know, "everybody say love." What surprised and impressed me was that you asked if there were any gay or lesbian people in the house.

RP: Yeah, well it's an issue that has to be addressed and why not in a big old disco where people are loving music and they're taking in messages. I think it's a great forum to place new ideas into a lot of young minds that really have a future. That's my secret to immortality - to keep my message going out to young fresh beautiful minds!

JEJ: You came out on stage and just started your song. There was no indication that you were a drag performer. Do people see you live or on the video and say, "oh, that's a drag queen?"

RP: I hope they do. I can only say from my point of view, but I think it is pretty evident. My attitude is not one that I am trying to pass. I think the video says I'm drag and I'm proud. And in the new drag movement, I think there is very little about sexuality. It has to do with self-realization and having fun and discovering the power of instant image. And that's the most interesting thing to me.

I travel a lot and I do not travel in drag, unless we're talking about what I call my GAP drag or my Banana Republic drag. These are drags that allow me to maneuver my daily routine with ease and I use it to my advantage. What's funny is that I'll get seated in a restaurant and being a black man people are very put off-ish. And every black man in America can relate to that. But, when I'm in drag, they part the red seas for me. Everyone is falling over to seat me and they want me at their restaurant. People suddenly can't get enough of me! It's a funny weird dichotomy that I live in

JEJ: So where does the image of Ru come from?

RP: It's been evolving since I was five years old and the first time that I got into drag. And it is still evolving

JEJ: And when was that first time?

RP: Well, I was like five or six and I would do Revlon commercials in my mother's bedroom with all of her make-up and her lingerie. I would sit in front of the mirror and do commercials, which I'm still doing actually

JEJ: I've seen your Champale commercial, it's beautiful! You should be their

spokesmodel.

RP: Now I've got my eye set on infomercials, but that's a whole other story. My image has been evolving since then. When I was older and moved to Atlanta (from San Diego), friends that I met there like Lady Bunny and LaHoma Van Zandt were doing grunge drag. You know, like a miniskirt with combat boots and an old ratty wig. And it was social commentary and a reaction to society coming out of the punk movement plus the art school crowd. As years went by, I moved to New York and I wanted to take it over the top. And the way to take it over the top for me, living in my body, was to wear hot pants and the highest platforms and the biggest blondest hair and the biggest smile to really attract the aliens!

JEJ: Your image as a black performer who does drag really interests me. You do something few other black drag queens exploit. You draw inspiration from black-sploitation. One just doesn't see that Cleopatra Jones stuff pulled out of the closet that frequently, and it's beautiful!

RP: It's wonderful! One thing that I learned early in my career is that the things that you are most embarrassed about are your flaws. The best thing to do is to amplify. A lot of people had problems with their blackness or afrocentricity. They tried to get away from it. I have always built right in to it knowing that it was my strong suit as far as my character goes. I do Miss Black Champale, hand firmly on my side and head wagging!

JEJ: On your Supermodel album, you even have one of the mega-stars of this genre, La Wanda Page. (Page portrayed Aunt Esther, nemesis opposite to Redd Foxx, on the television show Sanford and Son.) How did you get a hold of her?

RP: She is a genius! Tommy Boy records told me to make up a wish list of anyone in the whole world I would want on the album. At the top of the list was La Wanda Page! For years, I've sampled her voice from her comedy albums for my act. So she just happened to be in New York and we got her for the album. She is a genius! Her timing is par excellence!

JEJ: So as Lady Bunny would say, Supermodel is not the first time you and La Wanda have collaborated - you have worked together previously, only for Supermodel, you got her live.

RP: Right. You know, when I was a kid, we did not have a TV. So I would sneak

around the corner to a friend's house and watch Sanford and Son. She is such a huge part of Afro-American culture.

JEJ: So where does your name come from?

RP: RuPaul is my god given name. My mother named me that. She is from Louisiana, and has a Creole background, grew up speaking French. It comes from there. She actually saw a weird name like it in Ebony magazine and changed it to RuPaul. My full name is RuPaul Andre Charles.

JEJ: That has a beautiful flow to it.

RP: It does. I think she actually wanted me to get into show business or become a handdresser.

JEJ: During your act at the Palladium, you opened up the floor for questions. What is the question you have been asked the most as you travel from club to club promoting Supermodel?

RP: The question I am asked the most is how tall I am.

JEJ: So?

RP: With hair, heels and attitude, I go through the roof! (Hair, heels sans attitude tally in around an NBA-esque 6'7".)

JEJ: What's been the question that threw you most?

RP: Some one asked me the other night if they could give me a kiss. And they didn't mean a little peck. They meant a kiss! That threw me off guard.

JEJ: I understand that your busy and glamorous career recently took you to Rome to shoot a movie with the super model photographer Ellen Von Unwerth. How were the Italians?

RP: They were great! We shot in this little town outside Rome called Gallipoli. I had to drive with the camera in front of me, hit this mark, say this dialogue, and then drive off. And at the mark there were like 250 local people watching. It was so unreal! It was just one of those moments in your life when you go "oh my God, I can't believe I'm behind the wheel of this Alfa Romeo, and there is the big camera and crew!" It was just so gorgeous and I want more!

JEJ: Did you play the Colosseum?

RP: No, but I'm thinking and dreaming about it. We flew over the Colosseum and I thought "one day baby, that's where you'll go!" RuPaul live at the Colosseum! Live and More!

JEJ: But for now, you are playing our modern equivalent. The Supermodel

video is, as they say, in "heavy rotation" on MTV, and BET, and The Box.

RP: That's right, The Box and Black Entertainment Television. I'm so excited and thrilled! It's reaching teenage kids and ultimately that's where my immortality rests. That's my secret's secret to immortality - to give this message of self-love to lots of young people. A lot of young people are confused right now. They are thinking "what is my role?" Why am I on the planet? What am I going to do? And the answer to that is to look inside of yourself and learn how to love yourself.

JEJ: And that is the method through which you did all this.

RP: Right, and the album I have coming out this spring is a feel good record. How to feel good about yourself and how to love yourself. I think that's what I'm able to get across and that is the thing I am most proud of - reaching a lot of people and giving them hope. I moved to New York with a pair of high heels and a dream. Look at me now!

JEJ: Tell me about the Supermodel project.

RP: It is something I have been working on for a long time. Supermodel is the name of the album written by me and my partner Jimmy Harry. It is a labor of love and an expression of how I feel about myself, the world and everything.

JEJ: How would you equate or differentiate your career with Divine's music career?

RP: I owe so much to Divine and Sylvester and even Flip Wilson. They gave me a path, an option. I saw them and said, if they can do it, I can do it and hopefully, that is what I'll do for young people. Just the drag visibility of this whole thing is so positive. You create your own destiny and if I can do it, you can do it too, baby! I thank Sylvester and Divine and even Geraldine for the inspiration.

JEJ: That's beautiful! Is there anything you would like to add?

RP: No, but I do have just one thing to say.

JEJ: And what's that?

RP: You'd better work bitch!

At press, "Supermodel" had just made it to Number 1 on the Dance Music Charts! Way to go RuPaul!!!!

The Rubber Parts

TREE ANGELS BLEW MY SKIRT UP!

This tidbit is from the H.I.M. catalog (1-800-446-1646), which we received during the last few months of 1992. H.I.M. is a division of International Male, with a definite difference in their marketing strategy. When we saw the picture of "Tree Angels", with what are most likely ex-boyfriends of Barbie in fem-finery, we had to learn more! Seems that these were the most popular items in the entire catalog, according to sources at H.I.M.!!!! We contacted the creative genius behind this mirth, and here's what he had to say to us:

Thank you very much for your calls and interest in both KENNY ANGEL and STEVE, our SOUTHERN BELLE! Both are exciting new ideas my company has developed and marketed. I'm thrilled with the reception they have both received. Kenny



Angel made his debut during the Christmas season of 1992/1993 in his finest satin prom gown. The gown was accessorized with white roses and ribbons on each shoulder. Fine lace accents his wrists and elbows. A beautiful arrangement of lace and pearls detail and compliment the plunging scoop-cut bodice. A beautiful gold lace with gold sequin trim finishes his full length skirt. Each Kenny Angel holds a gold musical instrument. His halo is gold. Kenny boasts a 7 1/2 inch wing span of fine white lace and gold sequins. The outfit is completed with his lovely pearl necklace. It is our hope that Kenny

added sparkle, sophistication and conversation to many special Christmas trees in 1992. Since we sold every Kenny Angel we made, we're sure he did! Steve, our Lovely Southern Belle, is a new addition to our 1993 line. Standing proud and tall, he, like his sister Kenny, is beautiful. They share the same prom gown, but the similarities stop there. Steve chooses the more traditional Southern accessories. First, a golden trimmed lace bonnet, accompanied always by his finest gold handled satin parasol. Steve's role in life has turned him into the guardian and protector of the spare toilet tissue. A necessity of the finest powder rooms, Steve has become an extremely popular housewarming gift! He is a gift to be enjoyed year round! Both Steve and Kenny are available through J. TEAL NOVELTIES at \$29.95 each, plus \$2.75 shipping and handling. We would love to hear from Dragazine readers! If you have any comments, suggestions or orders, please write to us! J. TEAL NOVELTIES, P.O. Box 880363, San Diego, CA 92168-0363, and thanks again for your interest.

GAG ME!

If you are a true Drag enthusiast, then you will make sure that your local bookstore carries this gem! Ralph W. Judd has added his own special brand of witty humor through the use of subtitles that he's made up to go with a collection of wonderful archival photos of actors doing their crossdressing turns from Hollywood's golden era. By the giggles invoked, we can tell you it was a match made in heaven! We were fascinated from the beginning, not only by the quantity of photos available on the seemingly obscure subject matter, but how the author got permission to reprint at all! Dragazine has received some rejections for reprint recently, particularly from Warner Brothers, for rights to a great

photo of Kurt Russell doing Drag in 1989's "Tango and Cash".

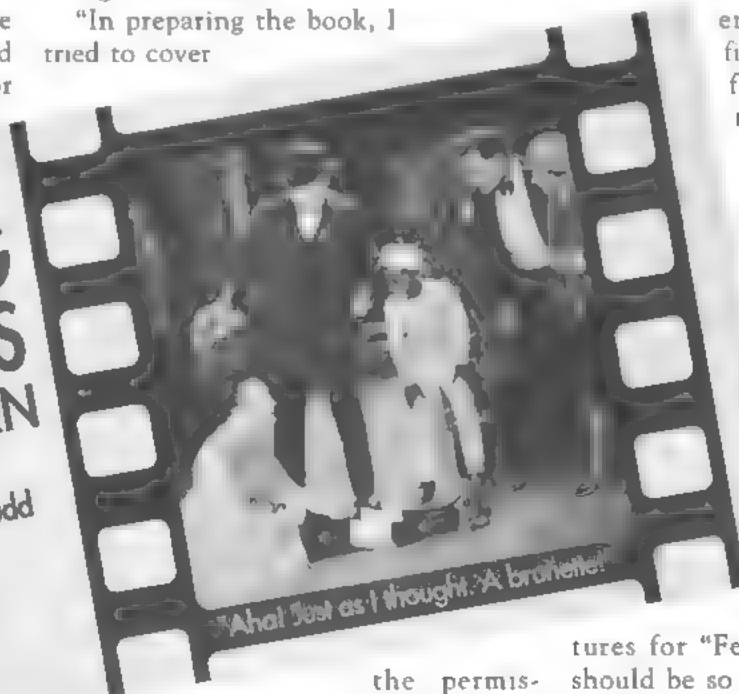
"In preparing the book, I tried to cover

the public domain.2) The photos were originally given away to generate publicity about the films. I mentioned studios, film titles, and the year of release to give them exactly what they wanted, and 3) The Supreme Court rendered a recent decision that indicated just about any form of satire is acceptable comment. Ralph sent us just about every back issue there ever was of San Francisco's entertaining "Buzz Tattler" newspaper, where he's been a regular contributor. He's also

been busy contributing features for "Feminine" magazine. We should be so prolific! Get your book dealer to write to Ralph Judd Communications, 1330 Bush Street, #4-H, San Francisco, CA 94109, and do it today!

DRAG GAGS RETURN

Ralph Judd



the permission question in 3 ways", says Ralph. "1) I used no photos later than 1949. All earlier material is probably in

THE LAVENDER

SCREEN by Boze Hadleigh

I began my third gay-themed book, *The Lavender Screen: The Gay & Lesbian Films* (Carol Publishing, \$17.95) in 1984. The day after I turned 30 - it helped cushion the shock! Normally, I'm overseas on my birthday, but that year I wasn't: just out of town, in Hollywood, in fact. Hollywood, where the truth lies.... *The Lavender Screen* is my sixth book, and the timing is great - now, with a pro-gay President in the White House, and with gays more in the news than ever, there is more mainstream interest in gay topics than ever before. Some 20,000 copies of *The Lavender Screen* were printed, and it's going back to press shortly. The book spans the 1920s to the '90s, has 300 photos, and focuses on famous movies - mostly Hollywood, some European - with major gay, lesbian or bisexual characters. Various chapters look at films with supporting gay characters, or films about historical gay characters (usually non-gay in the screen version!). One chapter deals with Myra Breckinridge, and other films about transsexuals. Another looks at the bi-themed, cross-dressing musical *The Rocky Horror*

Picture Show (and less successful gay musicals like *Can't Stop The Music*). Each chapter serves up one, two or three



like-themed movies. For instance, the chapter *Dress Reversal* is about Victor/Victoria and *Outrageous!* and its ten-years-later sequel *Too Outrageous!*

All three films feature impersonation of the opposite sex, and examine the friendship between a gay man and heterosexual woman. One of *The Lavender Screen's* longer chapters is about drag, and includes photos (and text!) illustrating several movies where men dress as women - *Some Like It Hot*, *Tootsie* - Women dress as men - *Yentl*, *Liquid Sky* - where women play men - Oscar-winner Linda Hunt in *The Year Of Living Dangerously* - and men play women - *Divine in Pink* *Flamingos*. Among the other cross-dressing stars pictured are Cary Grant as Florence in *I Was A Male War Bride*, Sir Alec Guinness as one Lady Agatha in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, Katherine Hepburn as a handsome lad and as an older man-in-uniform (*Lavender Screen* also includes several films about gays-in-the-military!), Paul Lynde and George Sanders in drag, and "honorary drags" like Cruella De Vil and Norma Desmond! *The Lavender Screen* is a labor of love, one I hope gay readers - and browsers - will enjoy (and hetero readers learn from!). It's been 12 years since the last book on the subject, and I wish you happy reading! (*The Lavender Screen* is available through bookstores or via 1-800-447-BOOK).

GIRLFRIEND!, THE CALENDAR THAT MAKES THE YEAR SEEM TO DRAG ON FOREVER!

It's about time that someone glorified Drag Queens in a calendar, and leave it to the folks at HOMOfure to do just that! *Girlfriend! The Monthly Calendar for 1993* is a photo treasure-trove, chock-full of fab pix of more than a baker's dozen of your soon-to-be favorite celebutante-activant dragtivists. The year gets off to a bang with Miss January! Our Drag-cam catches RuPaul, (You Better Work!), bee-hived and extraterrestrially blond, sashaying and shantaying her way to record her next big dance hit. She smiles at us with teeth-clenched as if to say "I can barely breathe" in a flavorsome tight-fitting waist-cincher over a duotoned crewnecked maillot cum fishnets and opera-lengths. Her flaxen wisps do the lambada with two oversized shoulder-dusters that strangely resemble a pair of ringed gas giants. If it's February, then it

must time to hang DeAundra Peek (on your wall)! DeAundra is known for being agape, but it is hard to tell if she is merely agog or simply aghast.



Eyeliner and lipliner by Marks-A-Lot, she stuns us with her Taser-like beauty. I see Paris, I see France, I see Rena McDonald's underpants, or at least her polyvinyl bra, for the merry month of March, as she looks up at us Lolita-like to close the first quarter, which is also the last time both Julius Caesar and I coincidentally had anchovies. We look down upon her..., at

her roots actually, but not in disgust - in dissent but not in disgust. She harkens to another brunette diva, Glen Meadmore, but maybe that's because I need glasses. Is that April Showers? No, it's Joan Jett Blakk wearing a blunt-cut, sitting on her stoop in a throne of made of cane, holding court in a flower-powered 60's inspired body-skimming stretchy mini-dress with brightly-colored tights. We scramble to find our blue-blockers to avoid getting snowblinded by her trademarked bright eye-shadow she uses to underpin the arches of her bold brows. Well, the rest are just as fabulous! But you'll have to get the calendar for yourself to see them. They were \$3.99 plus \$1 for shipping and handling. Ask Girlfriend Productions, P.O. Box 191781, San Francisco, CA 94119, to do it again for next year. It's a Limited Edition!

**TELL THEM YOU
SAW IT IN
DRAGAZINE!**

A LITE CHIT CHAT WITH



X

AND PHIL

*Lois Commondenominator
corners the diva Miss X and
her director Phillip R. Ford
for a heart to heart to heart.*

Lois: This is Sunday, the 28th of February, and we are speaking with Phillip Ford, who is the Director of Vegas in Space, and Phillip, say hello to Dragazine!

Phillip: Hello, Dragazine, all you beautiful Drag Queens out there!

L: Tell us any wonderful behind the scenes stories that quickly pop to mind on the making of Vegas in Space.

P: Well, it was shot over a period of quite a few years, actually - about a year and a half Doris Fish who was the star and the art director of the film, the late Doris Fish, did every makeup herself. She did every wig, every set design, every prop, herself, by hand. It was a hand-made film. There were many scenes in the Mount Venus Vanity Lounge, for example, where we had 15 or 20 Drag Queens extras who were made up in this intergalactic, green, blue, yellow outer space Drag, and she would do them all in a production line. Finally, she through herself into Drag, and at the end of the process, she was ready to wash some of them off, because the beards were growing through! It sort of went on for days and days and days like that - it just became a Drag morass.

L: It sounds like this was a Doris Fish production, actually. Tell us more about what you did on the project.

P: Well, I directed it and produced it, sort of put the whole project together and did the business end of it, as well as actually interpreting it and bringing it to film. Oh look! Here comes Miss X now!

L: Oh, Dragazine followers! Say hello to Miss X! Hello Miss X!

Miss X: Hello Dragazine!

L: It's so good to see you, and you're gorgeous! Now, actually, I'm fortunate enough to have already seen your play, Phillip Ford's Dolls, which is really what I'm here for, I mean, I promoted Vegas in Space in the last issue of Dragazine. You were so hot on that stage that night!

X: It felt good too, Merv!

L: (chortle) I just jotted down some questions while I was downstairs. Have you been interviewed about Dolls before?

X: It just opened in San Francisco a few weeks ago, but we have done interviews a couple of times, most recently for The Advocate.

L: Only a few weeks ago! Has The Advocate been following your work in the past? Did they review Vegas in Space as well?

P: Well, Vegas in Space hasn't been released yet. Troma will be releasing it this Spring.

X: But we were reviewed a few years ago when we did Bad Seed. The Advocate did a big layout on Theatre Rhinoceros. In a way, I guess they have been following us.

L: It's an interesting thing that there are two articles I'm going to run in Issue No. 5 of Dragazine, that are almost passe now - one is a Joe Jeffreys interview with RuPaul, and she is everywhere! The other one is my review of The Crying Game, which again is

everywhere, and yet both are perfect Dragazine fodder. So now, I just saw Dolls by accident, and the next day I open up The Advocate, and a review is there. What I'm getting at is, have you noticed a renewed interest in Drag of all types?

X: Well, yea, but I think that's been happening for the last five years. I think for one thing, there's a whole new generation of Drag Queens coming up, and the young blood really makes it exciting.

P: It's slightly become mainstream. Look at one of the nominees in this year's Oscars for best supporting actor!

X: I have a good friend who lives on the east coast, and he called and said that he'd just seen Lypsinka and RuPaul on Joan Rivers.

L: How do you handle that when you recommend to your best friends to go and see The Crying Game? Do you tell them, well, I can't tell you the secret?

X: Anyone who knows anything about Drag will see this thing coming a mile away
L: Let's talk about Dolls! Your performance was just wonderful! I loved your character. Tell us more about the character.

X: Well, she is a major bitch. Some people have told me that I have sort of made a career out of playing these really hard-nosed females. I have really only portrayed one or two nice ladies in all the years I've been working. I enjoy playing women like that - it really gives me something to sink my teeth into. They're very fun! I think they

make me a nicer person off stage because I get it all out on stage.

L: Are you using something from your real life to make those characters come to life on stage?

X: I think any actor does.

P: Oh, she's a bitch in real life!

L: I will quote you! Be careful!

X: Only sometimes - only early in the mornings! Now, don't you think there's a little bit of bitch in everyone? That's why characters like this are so popular! The character's name is Helen Lawson. I think everyone can relate to her, even though they may not be a Broadway legend for years and years and years, as she is. People would like to say, I'm through for the day, realizing that you're going to mess a lot of people up. Having someone like your competition fired, or any of the other nasty things she does.

L: There was some great dialogue. Can you please recount some of those great lines from the show?

X: (When Helen is fighting with Neely) Look! They drummed you right out of Hollywood and you come crawling back to Broadway, but Broadway doesn't go for booze and dope! Now get out of my way, cause I've got a man waiting for me!

L: What about the one where she's asked whether or not she needs to leave through the kitchen exit after her wig was flushed down the toilet by her rival, Neely.

X: I'll go out the way I came in!

L: Was there a moral to Dolls?

X: Don't do it! That's what I say - don't be mean to people like that, don't be so concerned with your own ego that you can't see other people, don't take drugs with both hands, don't go out in public totally smashed, or even in private.

P: It's a 1965 look at show business, at drugs, at mental illness. I think our perceptions have changed in the last 25 years about those things.

L: Tell us more about Dolls. I loved everyone in the play, but especially Connie Champagne who plays Neely O'Hara, the Patty Duke role, shy DQ Flynn who plays Anne Wells, the ingenue, and the beautiful DQ Jade, who plays the sad Jennifer North role, and outrageous DQ Diet Popstitute, in the thankless role of Mama. Did you use the script from the movie?

P: Yes, all the dialogue is taken from the picture. It's been restructured for the stage - the film had 70 scenes, so I had to boil it down.

L: I noticed how many scene changes there were! Was that part of an inside joke?

P: No, there were 25 scene changes in the play.

L: Seemed like more! Everybody was really, really good, except for when the curtain got caught on some props.

X: Those are the sorts of things that people go to live theater to see. That's what makes live theater exciting. Just last week, we went to see Guys and Dolls, and at one point the girls take off their minks in a big number, and one of the girls got her glove caught on her necklace, and could not make the change with the rest of the girls, and it was a good 15 seconds, but it was probably the longest 15 seconds of her life! We all felt for her! Things like that have happened to everybody. For a week afterwards, people were saying that was their favorite part of the entire show!

P: Dolls was a technically ambitious production, in terms of the multi-media, the films.

L: Yes, your take-off on "art films" was hilarious! I loved it when you spliced in real boobs on that Drag Queen when in close-up! Let's get in some Dragazine questions. Any cosmetic secrets you wish to share with our subscribers?

X: Well, there is one that I'm very fond of. In shows, it's really a good idea to bring along two pairs of shoes, particularly in varying heights. You can last an evening a lot easier by changing your shoes wisely. The ones I'm wearing today I got from Frederick's Mail Order.

L: Have you ever done Drag, Phillip?

P: Yes, in one of the films used in Dolls, I was Neely's voice coach. Over the years, I've been on stage and worn spangles and makeup and costumes and hairpieces, and worn just as much as these Queens just to do my male roles!

X: Phillip has often been billed as a Drag King to our Drag Queens.

L: What in your life are you most passionate about?

X: Many things. I love food, I love my friends.

L: What's your sign?

X: Scorpio - I was borne 3 days before Halloween.

L: What do you dress like on Halloween?

X: Well, that sort of depends. Some years, I don't even go out. This year, I was a French whore. Hardly anybody recognized me, because I very seldom am a blond.

P: Obviously, at our house, every night is Halloween!

L: Do both of your families know what you're doing?

X: Yes! These are my mother's earrings! A

Drag Queen like this just doesn't happen!

L: So you're comfortable with calling yourself a Drag Queen. What about performance artist, etc.?

X: Well, yes, I guess I'm all those things - actor, singer, but I'm also a Drag Queen.

L: You are quite a good singer. What were those songs you sang in the show?

X: I'll Plant My Own Tree, which was from the movie. There were no numbers in the second half of the movie, so Phillip Ford put a big number in the second half - Two Faced Woman, which is a song from a 1953 Joan Crawford movie, Torch Song.

L: Any new trends to report?

X: Everything's been done! Remakes are hotter than ever! It always annoys me when people say that they saw some 30's or 40's movie, and it was supposed to be ahead of it's time then. There was everything then that there is now, and it was also there before! Maybe the drugs are new, but the addictions are the same. Everything's a cycle.

L: How do you really earn a living?

X: I work for a fairly well-known women's clothing manufacturer based in San Francisco, in business since the early 30's. They are nationwide as far as distributing, and the name is Lilli Ann. If you haven't heard of Lilli Ann, then your mother, I'm sure, has heard of Lilli Ann, because they were very very popular in the 40's and 50's, and even up until the early 60's, and now they seem to be coming back, with women going for the corporate look and their strength being in suits. Now they've gone in separates as well, but they do suits best. Lilli Ann has started a new big women's line, 16 to 24!

L: What were you good and bad in school in?

X: I was good in math and English, I was bad in history and geography. I was bad, period.

L: Do you have a political agenda?

P: She votes how I tell her to!

X: I'm a democrat. Phillip is more the culture vulture, and is heavy into the political scene.

L: What's in the future for you?

X: Just before we came here, we were talking about doing a stage version of Sweet Bird of Youth, with me playing the Geraldine Page role of Alexandra Delargo, which is a dream part!

L: Well, congratulations to both of you on your success!

X: Thanks again, Merv! It was wonderful to talk to you all!

P: Thank you!



photos: M. Fazakerley

Fierce Ruling Diva & Project X Founder Michael Alig, center, and his club kid friends clockwise from upper left, diva Shuck-EI, entertainer Sophia Lamar, designer-entrepreneur Ernie Glam, illustrator Kabuki Starshine and painter Joey Horatio contemplate your presence at Style Summit. Have any reservations?

ACCESS EXCESS

CABLE TV SUBSCRIBING NEW YORK CLUB KIDS INVITE YOU TO STYLE SUMMIT



by Ernie Glam

As the drag universe expands, the very definition of what drag constitutes is challenged. Is drag simply a question of adopting the opposite sex's uniforms and mannerisms? Is it the deliberate confusion of gender identity? Or, has it become any outlandish manner of dress or self-expression, gender and sexual orientation aside? In New York City, a large group of young men and women have taken drag and juxtaposed it with the circus, science-fiction, cartoons, and the kitchen sink to create a bold, new drag aesthetic. This new form of drag was unnoticed by the Torch Song Trilogy school of transvestism and was not immediately recognized as a manifestation of drag by gays or straights. Since this new generation was only in its late 'teens or early twenties, they were regarded as children by the older queens, who called them kids. The youngsters agreed with the older queens and called themselves club kids.

If older generations of queens had borne a mutated species of rebellious off-spring, club kids would be it. Nourished on a diet of televised, disposable pop culture, club kids have lurched, with the rest of society, towards recycling. Cultural recycling prompted club kids to use drag as a foundation, appropriating the older queens' combined legacies and renewing them with an element of the 90's, cable TV, or more precisely: MTV, The Cartoon Network, and the Sci-Fi Channel. As with cable TV, club kid TV is meant to

entertain. Mimicking cable TV's countless talk shows and docudramas, club kids sensationalize, and ultimately trivialize, as many outrageous, decadent, scandalous, and titillating situations as possible.

In the five years or so since their emergence, some NY based club kids managed



to publish their own nightlife, fashion, and style magazine, Project X. It has gained a national following consisting of curious drag queens, fashion queens, small town aspirants, and ultra-liberal straight ravers and Eurotrash. Through Project X, club kids and drag queens have marketed themselves to the brink of Madison Avenue acceptability. In terms of circulation, it is the largest nationally distributed, non-porn publication to consecutively devote editorial glorification of drag queens and other "deviants". All this, and corporate advertising too!! Full pages of queens snuggle against Kinko's and Warner Bros. ads. The placement of the queens in the ads is a future objective.

In an ever greater desire for extrava-

gance, an alternative drag convention, the Style Summit, was established in 1992. 1993's Style Summit will occur on May 12-15 and will attempt to gather the nation's children of drag in one flamboyant four night celebration of vanity, illusion, fashion, photography, personal style, and self-worship. The Style Summit is intended to become a yearly cross-pollination of the new drag aesthetic, as practiced by trend-setting young people.

From a NYC perspective, drag is entering a golden age. The children of drag are voguing through doorways our Stonewall grandmothers kicked down. New drag is now traipsing its way into the worlds of fashion, music, and television, belonging all along, given its mastery of fantasy and self-invention, a fruit of the old guard's cultural engineering. The new drag is infiltrating, and being assimilated by, popular culture, where its members will assume, or be assigned, the roles of divas, celebrities, and supermodels (always behaving as such anyway!! Snap!!).

So, as you would with a remote and cable TV, zap through the following photographs, each a separate channel. You may decide just what is being channeled.

For more information on the Style Summit, please contact Ernie Glam at 37 W. 20th Street, #1007, New York, NY 10011, 212-255-5499, Fax: 212-268-0110.

SWASH YOU WERE HERE!
Top Left: Amanda Lapore & Dori Monster • Middle: Ali • Lower Right: Sonoma

